

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 618

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 591

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, XF, UR

SUBJECT: REACTION TO CEASE-FIRE

REF: BAGHDAD 586

1. AS GOI POSITION OPPOSING CEASE-FIRE PUTS IT AT ODDS WITH USSR, COMMUNIST DAILY TARIQ ASH-SHAAB HAS TRIED TO BLUNT MOUNTING CRITICISM WITH THREE EDITORIALS OCT 31-NOV 2. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

2. "REACTIONARY CIRCLES HAVE TRIED EXPLOIT RECENT DIFFICULTIES RESULTING FROM ZIONIST AGGRESSION PARTICULARLY REASONS WHICH LED TO CEASE-FIRE. THIS CRITICISM RESULTS FROM PREWAR SITUATION WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY ACTIVE ROLES OF ARAB REACTIONARY LEADERS, CONTROLLING OF PLO ACTIVITIES, MOUNTING CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOCIALIST BLOC AND USSR, AND INCREASED APPEALS TO RELY ON WEST AND U.S. TO SOLVE ARAB PROBLEMS.

3. "DESPITE NEGATIVE SITUATION PROGRESSIVE POWERS PARTICIPATED IMMEDIATELY IN BATTLE AND USSR GAVE COMPLETE SUPPORT TO ARAB NATION AND DECLARED ITS WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT IT IN LIBERATION OF ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND TO ENABLE PALESTINIANS TO REGAIN
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THEIR LAWFUL RIGHTS. SOVIET ARMS POURED INTO THE FRONTS AND

EFFORTS MADE TO ISOLATE ISRAEL IN WORLD PUBLIC OPINION.

4. "ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARAB ARMIES DURING FIRST TEN DAYS SUPPORTED BY RUSSIAN WEAPONS REVIVED HOPES OF MASSES. BUT INABILITY TO HOLD FRONT BECAUSE OF MISTAKEN POLICY WHICH DEPENDED ON RIGHTIST LEADERS AND DESIRED TO BARGAIN WITH REACTIONARIES RESULTED IN ENEMY ARMY MOVING ON WEST BANK OF CANAL THREATENING SUPPLY LINES OF THIRD ARMY. IN VIEW THIS GRAVE DEVELOPMENT USSR WAS COMPELLED, AFTER PERSISTENT REQUESTS FROM PRESIDENT SADAT, TO ACT TO GUARANTEE STOPPING OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION. THUS CEASE FIRE WAS MADE.

5. "AS IN 1967 USSR TOOK ACTION TO STOP WARFARE WHICH WAS NOT GOING IN ARABS' FAVOR. SUSPICIOUS POWERS TRIED TO MAKE ARAB PUBLIC BELIEVE THAT CEASEFIRE WAS DUE TO REFUSAL OF USSR TO SUPPLY ARAB ARMIES WITH STRATEGIC AND OFFENSIVE WEAPONS AND BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE. SUCH LANGUAGE CANNOT DECEIVE EVEN SIMPLETONS.

6. "UN RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS BROUGHT FORTH THROUGH GREAT EFFORT OF USSR AT SADAT PRSISTENCE AND AT REQUEST OTHER ARAB LEADERS, IS ONLY REFLECTION OF POWER BALANCE. ARAB SIDE, WITH ITS ABILITY TO RESIST AMERICAN-ISRAELI AGGRESSION, HAS BASIC ELEMENTS FOR DECIDING BALANCE IN FAVOR OF ACHIEVING LIBERATION OF ARAB LANDS WHETHER PEACEFULLY OR MILITARILY. SOVIET STAND IS IN HARMONY WITH AIMS AND ASPIRATION OF THE PEOPLE." LOWRIE

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